

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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53

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 /054 W

----- 054474

R 250826Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5222

UNCLAS KABUL 6923

FOR OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OTRA, AF

SUBJECT: GENESCO TANNING PROJECT

REF: STATE 182556

1. EMBOFFS HAVE SPOKEN WITH (A) YAQUB BROS., (B) AHU LEATHER & SHORE MFGR. COMN AND (C) THREE SKIN AND SKIN COAT EXPORTERS. IN ADDITION, AID/PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DIVISION HAS PUBLISHED A STUDY OF THE AFGHAN TANNING INDUSTRY. ALL THESE SOURCES TEND TO SUPPORT FINDINGS OF UNIDO TANNING EXPERT GUHA. GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT HERDS HAVE REGAINED SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF DROUGHT LOSSES, THAT SKIN AVAILABILITY SHOULD NOT BE PROBLEM. LACKING ACCURATE STATISTICS OF PRE-DROUGHT LIVESTOCK POPULATION OR OF RATE OF RECOVERY, EXACT EVALUATION IMPOSSIBLE. GUHA ESTIMATES AVAILABILITY OF SKINS AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION ANNUALLY, SUFFICIENT FOR ALL ANTICIPATED TANNING AND EXPORT NEEDS. POSSIBLE PROBLEM EXISTS OF COMPETITION BETWEEN TANNERS AND RAW SKIN EXPORTERS. TANNERS AS GROUP ARE SEEKING GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE RAW SKIN EXPORT. THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC, AND IN ANY EVENT DO NOT SEE THIS AS CURRENT PROBLEM. EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT SKIN AVAILABILITY WILL CAUSE DIFFICULTY FOR YAQUB BROS., BUT NO INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION LIKELY. GUHA SINGLE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE IN AFGHANISTAN, MOST OTHER SOURCES OBTAIN THEIR DATA FROM HIM.

2. CLAUDE BLANCHI, FINANCE MANAGER IDBA, CURRENTLY EXAMINING PROJECT. EXPECTS TO INFORM OPIC DIRECTLY OF CONCLUSIONS WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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TEN DAYS. IN ESSENCE, HOWEVER, IDBA MERELY EXAMINING VARIOUS

GUHA REPORTS FOR INTERNAL CONSISTENCY. AFTER THAT REVIEW, HE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS FINANCING WITH OPIC LOAN OFFICER COUNTS.

3. EMBASSY CONCURS IN MS. COUNTS VISIT AFTER FIRST WEEK OCTOBER. ADVISE DATES AND EMBASSY WILL ASSIST WITH SCHEDULING.

4. LAWYER TARAHI REPORTS HE HAS REPLIED TO TWO OF THREE LIPPMAN LETTERS. LAST LETTER RECEIVED 9/13/73 AND REPLY IS IN PREPARATION. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIVESTOCK, LEATHER, EXPORTS, HIDES & SKINS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Authority:** collinp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by collinp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENESCO TANNING PROJECT  
**TAGS:** EFIN, AF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005